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AN  
ADDRESS  
TO THE  
Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders  
OF ALL THE  
COUNTIES in *GREAT BRITAIN*,  
AND TO THE  
Mayors, Jurats, Bailiffs, Aldermen, Common Council-  
men, and Burgeses of all the Cities, Towns-Corporate, and  
Boroughs throughout the said Kingdom of *GREAT BRITAIN*.  
The following necessary and friendly Advice is humbly offered, by  
a *CORDIAL ADMIRER* of Truth and Liberty, and a Zealous Friend to this  
*CONSTITUTION*.



*L O N D O N:*

Printed for E. AMEY, at *Charing-Cross*.

*MDCCLVII.*

# ADDRESSES

TO THE

Commons, Clergy, and Freeholders

OF ALL THE

COUNTIES IN GREAT BRITAIN

AND TO THE

Messrs. James, Balfour, & Co. Agents, Common Council,  
London, and Messrs. of all the Clergy, Towns, Ports, and  
throughout the Kingdom of GREAT BRITAIN.  
The following is a list of the names of the persons who  
have been appointed to the various committees of the  
Constitution.



LONDON:

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MDCCCXXXV.





A N  
A D D R E S S  
T O T H E  
Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders  
O F A L L T H E  
Counties in *G R E A T B R I T A I N*, &c.

*Gentlemen, Friends, and Countrymen,*



U R E it requires very little Argument to convince Men of common Sense, that in this Country they have a constitutional, as well as a natural Right to be free. By Freedom, is not nor can be meant, that every Individual should act as he lists, and according as he is swayed by his own Passions, Vices, or Infirmities ; but Freedom is a Right every Man has to do what he will with his own, conformable to Law ; is a Right every Man has to be judged impartially by his Equals, and to have his Property secured to him and his Posterity. If Freedom therefore is thus founded in Justice, and justifiable by Reason and sound Sense, the Support and Preservation of it is certainly a Consideration of the highest Importance, when you come to reflect on the great Duty you owe to yourselves, to Posterity, and to Millions of your Fellow Subjects.



The Blessings that are derived from a well constituted Liberty, cannot possibly be continued to you and yours, if once the Majority of this Nation should become profligate and abandoned, devoid of all Sense of Honour, or Sense of Shame; when once each Particular shall consult only his own immediate paltry Convenience, then the Frame, the Spirit, the Beauty of this Constitution must moulder, wither, and decay, and all its Harmony be lost.

It is therefore equally honest and necessary to offer you this friendly Admonition, which the approaching Dissolution of this Parliament renders yet more seasonable, lest an over-late Conviction of the Indignities endured by a brave and free People from the Cabals of designing Ministers, and the Treachery of pretended Patriots, should leave you under the dreadful Dilemma of chusing either a tame Submission to tyrannical Power, or a fatal Struggle for the Preservation of your Liberty.

Then sure, you will (my Countrymen) as it is your Duty, give your honest Assistance to save your Country, by a sober, prudent Choice of your Representatives. If a violent and extraordinary ministerial Measure should be taken to dissolve the present Parliament, you will have once more (and perhaps but once) an Opportunity of declaring in a lawful Manner, whether you will or will not be free; and if you should be so unfortunate as to mis-judge in the Choice of your Representatives, (notwithstanding the Precaution, which I shall hereafter point out to you) and many of them (like Villains) should barter away your Liberties to gratify their Insolence or Revenge, their Avarice or Ambition; nevertheless I affirm, that those Electors, who shall act on the Principles of Liberty, though mistaken in their Choice, will have some Degree of Self-consolation, when they reflect, that the cruel Treason does not lie at their Doors.

The Dissolving of a Parliament, is always acknowledged and understood to be a violent Measure, merely Ministerial, and cannot be National, and bespeaks some extraordinary political Jobb to be put in Execution, that will not bear the Light, and must mean to declare, that it is not safe to suffer the Elections to take Place after the Secret is out. I will state to you a few Points, that, since the Commencement of the War, this Nation is further indebted upwards of Twenty Millions, and has spent upwards of forty-two, that we have exported out of this trading Country, upwards of twelve Millions to support a most impracticable, unsuccessful, expensive War on the Continent, and have lost above fourscore Thousand Men by Land and Sea. It is known by all, that the Marine is our natural Strength, which lately Admiral *Anson* and *Warren's* Conduct and Success evidently prove, but we have (nay we must have) neglected this national favourite Point, for the Sake of another favourite Point, the Land War. So that we have lost upwards of thirteen Hundred Ships, taken by the Enemy, together with *Madras*, our principal Settlement in the *East Indies*: And turn your Eyes upon the Continent, and you will find the *French* in possession of all *Flanders*.



A late memorable ungrateful Resignation of Employments, or rather Desertion of his Majesty's Service by a powerful Faction, in the midst of the late horrid Rebellion, grown formidable merely by a Series of Misconduct, supported by Expedients with as much false Ability as Want of Oeconomy ; I say such an Outrage against the Honour, the Dignity, the known Prerogative of the Crown, just at that Juncture when the Constitution of *Great Britain* was reduced to so nice, so tremendous a Crisis, plainly demonstrates to what immoderate Lengths the Ungrateful and Ungenerous will run, when spur'd on by Pride, Revenge, Avarice, and Ambition. If such Men should find it impossible to continue a Continent War upon so unequal, so impracticable a Plan as the present, they may be induced, from the above righteous Motives, to consent to an infamous, dishonourable and scandalous Peace, such as may render it necessary to have an immediate new Courtly Parliament, to save their Heads who made it at least for Seven Years.

Suppose then the Parliament dissolved. You now only are permitted to chuse your Representatives once in Seven Years ; but remember you once had a Right to judge of the Behaviour of your Representatives every three Years. That Parliament which you or your Fathers chose to represent the Commons of *Great Britain* for three Years only, assumed a Power not delegated to them by the Commons, to continue themselves for seven. Sure this ought to have alarmed the People, for it was an Act that Parliament could not, in common Justice and common Sense, have a Right to pass, particularly in regard to themselves ; but, to Astonishment, so supine and careless, so little jealous have you been ever since, of that great Branch of your Liberty's being torn from you ; I say, it is to my Astonishment, that every County, City, Borough, and Town-corporate, have not, one and all, obliged those they chose to represent them in Parliament, solemnly to declare under their Hands and Seals, that they would grant no Supplies, or Aids of Money to the Crown whatever, let the Exigencies of Affairs be ever so great, unless that unjust, odious, destructive Act was previously repealed, which entitles Members to sit for seven Years in Parliament ; and an Annual Parliament or a Triennial one established in its room. You have a Right to elect, it is true, but sure no Man pretends a Right to be elected ; Have not you a Right therefore to make Terms on behalf of yourselves and the Nation, with those you constitute and appoint to represent you ? Suppose (and it is with deep Concern I mention it) that some may be so wicked and profligate, even to Perjury, as to take Bribes from Candidates or their Agents for their Votes ; one would wonder that even such Miscreants should be such senseless Fools, as not to have some Security for restoring to the Nation its declared constitutional Right of choosing Representatives frequently, and to the Constitution its Right of being defended by a well ordered and numerous Militia, which is the only safe internal Defence of this Country, and abolish in time of Peace that ante-constitutional Tool of Power, a Standing Army. Should you not likewise insist with your Representatives, that they should, previous to granting of Money, procure a more extensive Place Bill, at least to exclude all Officers of the Army under the Degree of Colonels of Regiments, from sitting in the House of Commons, and likewise all Sea-Officers under the Degree of Rear-Admiral ? Will you not, in Justice to yourselves, in Compassion to your Country, as Lovers of Liberty, and as honest reasonable Men, insist with all those without Distinction, who offer you their Services to represent you in Parliament, that they shall (previous to their Elections) sign and seal Duplicates, wherein they shall declare solemnly



solemnly, that they will not adhere to, support, or put Confidence in, any Administration whatever, nor grant any Aids of Money to the Crown, until those just Rights and Demands of the People are procured, by the three abovementioned Acts of Parliament being obtained; namely, the Repeal of the Septennial Bill, which enables Men to represent the Commons of *Great Britain* for the unreasonable Term of Seven Years. An Act to constitute an effectual and numerous Militia throughout the Kingdom, and a further Place-Bill, at least to exclude Officers, as abovementioned.

Give me Leave to add, if you let slip this Opportunity, in all human Probability, this Nation will be certainly undone. We are all in the same Ship, we must all sink together. Think of the extravagant Influence an unconstitutional Number of Placemen sitting in the House of Commons may have, if directed by a dissolute, immoral, luxurious Ministry. Reflect on the Constitutional Right you have to defend yourselves by a Militia; and seriously ponder on the vexatious Influence, the monstrous Expence, the Idleness, the Debaucheries of a Standing Army in Time of Peace; and think with Horror, that in seven Years Time a corrupt Set of Men may give up your Liberties for ever.

I have thus, in the Fulness of my Heart, ventured to address you. This Paper favours not of Faction, nor is it a Party Libel; but speaks melancholly alarming Truths. Insist (as you have an undoubted Right) on something like the following Declaration, to be signed and sealed by all your Representatives, or you will be bought, you will be sold, you will be undone. Let the Success of these my honest Endeavours prove as it will, I have done my Duty; and you cannot say, (my Countrymen) hereafter, that you had no Warning; now shew your Zeal for Liberty, exert your publick Spirit, give Proofs that you deserve to be free. Farewel.

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## DECLARATION

*Which all honest Men will not refuse to sign, if required, and what all prudent Men will require to be signed by those who offer themselves as Candidates to serve in Parliament.*

**I** *A. B.* who now offer myself as a Candidate to be elected to serve in Parliament for \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly and cordially declare, upon my Honour and Conscience, that if I am chosen a Member to represent the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ I will never adhere to, support, or put Confidence in any Administration, until an Act is obtained to repeal \_\_\_\_\_

repeal that Act which entitles every Member of the House of Commons to sit for seven Years in Parliament, and to constitute in its Room an Annual or a Triennial Parliament ; a second Bill to establish a numerous and effectual Militia throughout the Kingdom, for the natural Security and Peace of these Realms ; and a third, by which a greater Number of those who hold Places under the Government shall be rendered incapable of sitting in Parliament, than are at present excluded by any Laws now in Force. And I further protest and declare, that I will not give my Consent to, but strenuously oppose the passing of any Bills, that shall grant Aids of Money to the Crown, until these three abovementioned Bills are obtained and passed into Laws. And I declare by these Presents under my Hand and Seal, that I accept of my Seat in Parliament upon these Terms ; and that I understand this to be the Intention of my Constituents ; and if I do not persevere in endeavouring to obtain to my utmost the three above-mentioned National Bills, I voluntarily acknowledge, in this publick Manner, that I shall justly be deemed by all Mankind false to my Constituents, and a Traytor to my Country.

*Signed and Sealed, &c.*

F I N I S.



repeal that Act which enables every Member of the House of Commons to sit for seven Years in Parliament, and to continue in its Room an Annual or Triennial Parliament; a second Bill to establish a numerous and effectual Militia throughout the Kingdom, for the natural Security and Peace of these Kingdoms; and a third, by which a greater Number of those who hold Places under the Government shall be rendered incapable of sitting in Parliament, than are at present excluded by any Laws now in Force. And I further protest and declare, that I will not give my Consent to the passing of any Bills, that shall grant Aids of Money to the Crown, until these three above-mentioned Bills are obtained and passed into Laws. And I declare by these Presents under my Hand and Seal, that I accept of my Seat in Parliament upon these Terms; and that I understand this to be the Intention of my Constituents; and if I do not persevere in endeavouring to obtain to my nearest the three above-mentioned National Bills, I voluntarily acknowledge, in this public Manner, that I shall justly be deemed by all Mankind false to my Constituents, and a Traitor to my Country.

Signed and Sealed, &c.

W I N I S

DECLARATION